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ARTICLES FOR THE Church-wardens and Inquirers to

*ground their presentments vpon, to be exhibited vn-
der their oathes and hands to Mr. Archdeacon of
Norfolke, or his Officiall, in the Visitation*
ANN. DOM. 1625

*Certaine Articles to which the Churchwardens
are charged to make especiall enquire, of
which there shall bee speciall ac-
count taken.*



Doth your Minister say or sing Diuine
Seruice (according to the prescript
forme established by his Maiesties
authoritie) distinctly and reuerently,
(and that indue time) vpon Sundaies
and holidiaies, and in such place of
the Church as is fittest for the peo-
ple to heare? doth he obserue all the
Orders, Rites, and Ceremonies pre-
scribed in the Booke of Common
Praier, as well in reading of holy Scriptures, as in administra-
tion of the Sacraments, without adding or diminishing?

2 Doth your Minister euery Sunday and holiday, for halfe an
houre before Euening Praier, catechise the youth and ignorant
persons of your parish, in the tenne Commandements, the Arti-
cles of the Beliefe, and in the Lords Praier? Doe the Fathers
and Mothers, Masters and Mistresses within your parish, cause
their children and seruants to come to Church at the time afore-
said to be catechised? Set downe in your answer to this Article,

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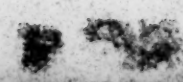
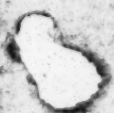
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1800





The tenor of the Oath to be mini-
stred to the Church-wardens and
Questmen.

YOV shall make diligent inquirie, and true pre-
sentment of all and euery person of or within
your Parish, who hath committed any offence,
or made any default in any of these Articles mentioned,
or who is vehemently suspected, or publiquely defamed
of any such offence or default, and this without all
partialitie or corrupt affection: So helpe you God by
the contents of his holy Gospel.

The Answer to euery Article to bee
made distinctly and seuerally.

2700



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der their oathes and hands to Mr. Archdeacon of
Norfolke, or his Officiall, in the Visitation*
ANN. DOM. 1625

*Certaine Articles to which the Churchwardens
are charged to make especiall enquire, of
which there shall bee speciall ac-
count taken.*



DOth your Minister say or sing Diuine Service (according to the prescript forme established by his Maiesties authoritie) distinctly and reuerently, (and that indue time) vpon Sundaies and holidiaies, and in such place of the Church as is fittest for the people to heare? doth he obserue all the Orders, Rites, and Ceremonies prescribed in the Booke of Common Praier, as well in reading of holy Scriptures, as in administration of the Sacraments, without adding or diminishing?

2 Doth your Minister euery Sunday and holiday, for halfe an houre before Euening Praier, catechise the youth and ignorant persons of your parish, in the tenne Commandements, the Articles of the Beliefe, and in the Lords Praier? Doe the Fathers and Mothers, Masters and Mistresses within your parish, cause their children and seruants to come to Church at the time aforesaid to be catechised? Set downe in your answer to this Article,

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such particular Sundaies, in which your Minister hath omitted to catechize, euer since you were Churchwardens and Questmen.

3 Be there in your parish that doe vsually resort to Church to heare the Sermon, but will not, or are not vsually present at the reading of publique Praier, as it is appointed by the booke of Common Praier? Or be there any that doe absent themselves from diuine Seruice or Sermons said or made by the Minister of the Parish, and resort to other Churches to heare other Preachers Sermons?

4 Haue you any common resorters to your Church being not of your parish: or do any such receiue the Communion with you?

5 What strangers haue preached in your Church this last halfe yeare; by whom were they authorized as Preachers? And whether haue they written their names, and the seuerall daies when they preached, and the seuerall names of them, of whom they had their seuerall licenses to preach?

6 Doth your Lecturer or Preacher, (not beeing your Parson or Vicar) reade the diuine seruice himselfe twice euery yeare, vpon two seuerall Sundaies, publikely at the vsuall times, both forenoone and afternoone in your Church; and doth he twice in euery yeare also administer the Sacraments of Baptisme, and of the Lords Supper, in such forme, and with such rites and ceremonies as is prescribed in the Booke of Common praier: when did you last heare him so reade the diuine seruice?

7 Hath your Minister (be he Parson, Vicar, Lecturer, Preacher, or Curate) or any other Minister, or other, preached or read any Lecture vpon any text of Scripture, in any priuate house within your parish, or doth your Minister or any other vse so to do, or to administer the Communion in any such house?

8 Hath any of your Parishioners receiued the holy Communion, not kneeling reuerently vpon their knees, but sitting standing, or walking: doth your Parson, Vicar, Preacher, or Curate administer the holy Communion to any person, who doth refuse to receiue it kneeling, or doth not vsually receiue it kneeling?

9 Hath your Minister, or any other in your Church, baptized any child, without signing it with the signe of the Crosse. Hath any child died unbaptized within your Parish: if so, by whose default?

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Articles concerning Religion.

1 Be there any abiding. or resorting to your Parish, that be knowne to defend or maintaine any hereticall or schismaticall opinions, contrary to the holy Scriptures of God: or doe openly or secretly impugne or dislike the publike worship of God, or the rites and ceremonies now established in the Church of England: or doe affirme them to be such as godly men may not (with good conscience) approoue?

2 Be there any in your parish, which doe say or affirme, that in the booke of Common praier, or in the booke of Articles set forth by the Conuocation, *Ann.Dom.* 1562. or in the booke of the forme of making and consecrating Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, any thing is contained that is corrupt, superstitious, or vnlawfull, or any thing that is repugnant to the holy Scriptures?

3 Be there any Popish Recusants married, the child of any Recusant buried within your Parish, by any other then the Minister of the parish: or doth the child of any Recusant remaine vn baptized aboue one moneth; or is it not baptized at your Church, being borne in your parish?

Concerning the Church.

1 Is your Church well and sufficiently repaired, are the windowes well glazed, the floares decently paved, seats fit and convenient, the steeple and bells kept in repaire, are all things in your Church and Chappell in comely sort, without dust or any thing that is noysome or vnseemely?

2 Haue you in your Church or Chappell, the booke of Common praier by the Kings Maiestie confirmed, a Bible of the largest volume, and latest translation; the booke of Homilies allowed by authority; the booke of Constitutions or Canons Ecclesiasticall, published by his Hignesse authoritie: a fine large surplesse with sleeues, a coffer with three lockes and three keyes, for the safe keeping of the Register booke, and the like chest (with an hole in the vpper part thereof) for the almes of the poore?

3 Haue you a Register booke in parchment, of them that be christened, married, and buried within your parish? doth your Minister euery Sabbath day next after such christening, mariage, or buriall, (in presence of the Churchwardens) therein write the

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names of the parties, and also the day and yeare of such christening, marriage, and buriall had the weeke before? and doe the Minister and Churchwardens subscribe their names to the end of euery page being full?

4 Is the said Register book laid vp againe after such writing, and kept in a sure chest, vnder three lockes and three keies? and who doe keep the said keies?

5 Is your Churchyard well and sufficiently repaired, fenced, and maintained, with walls, railes, or pales, as hath been of late yeares accustomed? Or is the fence thereof, or any part of it onely by hedge, and how long hath it been so? haue any built or encroached vpon any part of your Churchyard?

6 Haue any brawled, quarrelled, stricken, or laid violent hands (one vpon an other) in your Church or Churchyard?

7 Haue any annoied your Churchyard, or the fence thereof, by putting in of cattell, by hanging of cloths, or by laying there any straw, dust, dung, rubbish, filth, or otherwise?

8 Is your Chancell (as well for glasing, pauing, and seats, as also for other reparations) and likewise the buildings belonging to your Parsonage, Vicaradge, Almes-house, Church-house, or Vestrie, in good and sufficient repaire? Or be they ruinated, wasted, gone, or decaid? if so, specifie the decays?

9 Are the same houses, and likewise your parsonage and vicaradge houses imploied to such vse and vses as they ought to be: or otherwise vsurped and abused?

10 Doe any refuse or delay to pay their church-duties, or leuies rated towards the repaire, or ornaments, or other charges of your church or churchyard?

11 Haue you at any time in your Church, Chappel, or churchyard, any plaies, gaming at bowles, hand-ball, or foot-ball, or any other playing: or any feasts, church-ales, temporall courts, Lects, musters, or any other prophane vsage there, and by whom?

Concerning Ministers and Preachers of Gods holy word, and Schoolemasters.

1 Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Preacher, an incontinent person, or doth he keep any suspected woman in his house, or is he giuen to drunkenesse, or idlenesse: A haunter of tauernes, ale-houses,

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houses, or suspected places; or one that doth board or lodge in any such place? A dicer, carder, tabler, swearer, giuen to base or seruile labour; or otherwise giueth he any euill example of life? Is his apparell graue and comely, beseeming his function and calling?

2 Doth your Minister say or sing the Letanie, in your parish Church, vpon Wednesdaies and Fridaies, causing a bell to be tolled thereunto? Doth hee declare to the people openly in the Church, on the Sabbath day, what holidiaies and fasting daies be in the weeke following? Hath he openly in the church vpon some Sundaies or holidates before diuine seruice, read the whole book of Canons, published by his Highnesse authoritie, within this yeare last past?

3 Is your Parson or Vicar resident vpon his benefice? if not, then haue you a sufficient Curate? and is he lawfully admitted to holy orders, and licensed by the Ordinary vnder his hand and scale, to serue the cure in that place? and haue yee seene such license?

4 Is your Minister diligent to execute his office, by reading of the holy Scriptures: is he a licensed Preacher, and therefore doth preach once euery Sunday: or is he no licensed Preacher, and therefore doth procure sermons in his cure euery moneth? and when there is no sermon, doth he read one of the Homilies appointed by authority?

5 Hath your Minister (be he Parson, Vicar, Lecturer, Preacher, or Curate) or any other persons met together in any priuate house or elsewhere, to consult vpon any course to be taken by them or any other, which may tend to the impeaching or deprauing of the doctrine of the Church of England, or of the booke of common praier, or of any part of the gouernement or discipline Ecclesiasticall now established in the said Church?

6 Doth your Minister, before his sermon, lecture, or homilie, pray for his Maiesty, giuing him his lawfull title and iust style, and commend his Highnesse, the Prince, and the Kings royall issue, in his praiers to Almighty God?

7 Doth your Minister in time of diuine seruice, or ministring the Sacraments, weare a decent and a comely surplice with sleeues, and vpon it (and if he be a graduate) an hood sutable to his degree in the Vniuersity?

8 Doth

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8 Doth he performe his duty, in visiting the sicke, and burying of the dead, doth he not delay to christen any child according to the forme appointed by the booke of Common praier?

9 Doth he keepe a note of euery excommunication, and doth he euery sixe moneths openly denounce in his parish-church, euery such person of his parish as doth perseuere in that Censure, not seeking to be absolved? and is any such person admitted into the Church, without a sufficient certificate of his absolution?

10 Was your accustomed perambulation made and obserued by your Minister, with the better sort of your parishioners in rogation weeke last past: if not, by whose fault was it neglected? and when was it last obserued and gone?

11 Haue you in your parish any that teach schollers publike-ly or priuately? is he licensed by the Ordinary vnder his hand and scale? doth he frequent his parish church with his schollers in time of common praier and sermon, and instruct them in the Principles of Religion? doth he teach, or is he suspected to teach any of his schollers Popery, superstition, disobedience, or contempt of the truth and Christian religion now established within this Realme, or to contemne Orders Ecclesiasticall?

Concerning the Sabbaoth, diuine seruice, prayer, and Sacraments,

1 Haue your people obserued the Sabbaoth day in all sobernes and godly conuersation? or be there any which haue prophaned the same, by playing at cards, tables, football, dauncing, bowling, excessiue ringing, immoderate drinking, or other foolish delight or vaine pleasure?

2 Doe all and singular dwellers and sojourners within your parish, diligently resort to your parish church (with their seruants and children) to morning and euening praier, vpon the Sunday and holy-day, and there (with due attention) orderly abide during the whole time of common praier, seruice, and sermon, reuerently behauing themselves as well inwardly as also by outward gesture of their bodies, in keeping their heads vncouered, in kneeling, standing, and other decent behauiour?

3 Hath euery one in your parish (beeing aboue sixteene years of age, and of discretion) receiued the holy communion at your parish church, thrice at least this last yeare, and especially at or about

bout Easter for once, kneeling and with such due and humble reverence, as become true Christians? and doth your Minister so often celebrate the communion, that euery one may so receiue thrice in the yeare? hath any refused to receiue the holy communion kneeling?

4 Doe the Church-wardens (with the aduice of the Minister) prouide bread and wine for the communicants, and is the wine brought in a faire pot or stoope of pewter or purer mettall?

5 Hath your Minister admitted to the holy communion any notorious euill liuer, adulterer, fornicatour, common drunkard, periured or malicious person, before they be reconciled by the Ordinary, or any church-wardens which (without regard of their oath) haue wilfully omitted to present notorious defects or offences: or hath he put back any parishioners from the communion of malice, or for any light or friuolous occasion?

*Concerning Churchwardens, Questmen,
and parish Clarke.*

1 Be your Churchwardens and Questmen chosen yearely in Easter weeke according to the Canon: and did the last Churchwardens (at the end of their yeare, or within a moneth after) giue a true account before the Minister and parishioners, of such money and things as they receiued and expended, and did they deliuer the residue to those that now are churchwardens?

2 Haue any churchwardens lost, sold, or detained any ornaments, bells, or implements of the Church, or any legacies bequeathed thereunto?

3 Doe you that now are churchwardens and questmen, see that all persons excommunicate be kept out of the Church: and did your predecessors so for their time?

4 Haue you a parish Clarke sufficient for his place, aged 20. yeares, and of honest conuersation: can he write and read: is he chosen by your minister, and dutifull to him in his office: doe any refuse to pay and allow to the Clarke and Sexten, accustomed wages and duties?

Concerning Matrimonie.

1 Haue you the tables of degrees of kinred and alliance within which matrimonie is prohibited, set vp in some open place in

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your Church, and hath any married contrary to the same?

2 Haue any persons beene married either secretly in any private house, or openly in the Church, within the times prohibited: or without sufficient licence, or banns thrice published in time of diuine seruice, three seuerall Sundaies or holydaies before the congregation: who were present at such marriage, and what Minister did marrie them?

3 Be there any couples in your parish, which beeing lawfully married, doe liue a sunder without lawfull separation: or any separated, which (both beeing aliue) doe marrie againe?

Concerning the Parishioners and Laitie.

1 Haue you any, which (to your knowledge, or by common fame) haue committed incest, adulterie, or fornication: either any malicious and vncharitable persons, bawdes, common drunkards, vsurers, brawlers, slanderers, swearers, cursers, blasphemers, common scolds, ribawds, periured persons or such like?

2 Haue any conueied, receiued, or harboured any light or leud women, or any vnlawfully begotten with child, or vehemently suspected thereof, and haue suffered them to depart before they haue performed penance enioyned by the Ordinary?

3 Be there any in your parish which liued incontinently, or any woman vnlawfully begotten with child before their marriage: or which be thereof vehemently suspected?

4 Haue any vnreuerently abused your Minister, or laid violent hands vpon him, or otherwise disgraced his office and calling by word or deede?

5 Haue any miscalled or railed vpon any of the church-wardens or questmen, for doing of their duties according to their oathes?

6 Doe ye know or heare of any, which (without authoritie) doe administer the goods of the dead, or conceale any testament, or neglect to pay legacies bequeathed to the Church, or poore, or to the repaire of high waies, or to other charitable vses?

7 Haue any Innekeepers, alewiues, victualers, ontiplers receiued, harboured, or suffered any persons to eate, drinke, stay or play in their houses, in time of common praier, sermon or homily, on Sundaies or holy daies: and what persons were so receiued,

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ceiued, harboured, or suffered?

8 Haue any laboured, wrought, or gone to cart on the Sunday or holy-day? and haue any artificers or other set open their shop windowes, or vsed their trade or any manuell occupation vpon any of those daies: and hath any mill beene set to grinde vpon the Sabbath day, or any other holy-daie?

9 Doe you know or heare by common fame, of any other matter (to be presented) belonging vnto the Ecclesiasticall Iurisdiction, although not in these Articles contained?

The Minister (bee he Parson, Vicar, Lecturer, Preacher, or Curate,) may ioine with the swornmen in their presentments, and he is to informe the Ordinarie vnder his hand, of such faults as the Swornemen shall leaue vnpresented.

It is lawfull for the Minister alone, or for the sworn Officers, to present as often as occasion requireth: and it is meete that notorious offences, should in due time be presented and punished.

F I N I S.



